UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1995/51
20 December 1994

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-first session
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with paragraph 15 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51

1. In its resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993, entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights", the Commission on Human Rights, "bearing in mind that regional instruments should complement the universally accepted human rights standards and that certain inconsistencies between provisions of regional instruments and those of international instruments might raise difficulties with regard to their implementation", inter alia noted with interest that "various contacts between regional bodies and commissions and the United Nations have continued to be pursued and strengthened through advisory services and technical assistance activities, with a view to the exchange of information and experience in the field of human rights". The Commission invited "States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights" and renewed "its appeal to all Governments to consider making

use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under this [the advisory services] programme of organizing information and/or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies". The Commission requested "the Secretary-General, as foreseen in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights" and in that connection welcomed "the fact that the Centre for Human Rights will continue to organize national, regional and subregional workshops and training courses for government officials engaged in the administration of justice and in the implementation of the international human rights instruments and that more countries in all regions of the world are expected to develop forms of cooperation and assistance with the Centre for Human Rights, in keeping with their specific needs". It also requested "the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-first session, a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, to formulate concrete proposals and recommendations on the ways and means of strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights and to include in his report the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution". This report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The attention of the Commission on Human Rights is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/321). The Secretary-General's report, which contains relevant information requested by the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the implementation of paragraphs 5, 10 and 15 of its resolution 1993/51, is also available to the Commission on Human Rights.